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Letter dated 16 January 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations, Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (see annex), regarding the visit of the President of Benin, Boni Yayi, to the Central African Republic on 30 December 2012, in his capacity as President of the African Union and within the framework of efforts initiated by regional leaders to resolve the current crisis in that country.

I should be grateful if you would bring the letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 31 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On orders from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the following information:

Concerned at the deteriorating political and security situation in the Central African Republic, the President of Benin, Boni Yayi, paid a working visit to the Central African Republic on 30 December 2012, in his capacity as current Chairman of the African Union.

During the visit, he held talks with the President of the Central African Republic, François Bozizé, at the Bangui airport. The talks centred on ways and means of resolving the crisis in that country, including conditions for negotiating with the coalition of rebel forces called "Seleka".

Hereunder is a summary of the outcome of those talks, consisting of a series of commitments made by President Bozizé:

1. To enter into negotiations, without conditions and without delay, with the "Seleka" rebel forces, in Libreville.

2. To comply with the global and all-inclusive agreement of 2008, signed in Libreville, and with the decisions of the Summit of the Economic Community of Central African States, held in N'Djamena, Chad, on 21 December 2012.

3. To form an inclusive national union government following negotiations with all political and military forces and political parties.

4. To respect the Constitution of the Central African Republic and to not seek re-election during the 2016 presidential election, following his second term at the helm of the Central African Republic.

5. To present an official apology to France for the incidents that occurred at the French Embassy in Bangui following demonstrations by supporters of President Bozizé.

6. To seek an official visit to France in order to discuss issues of bilateral interest directly with President François Hollande.

7. To deliver a message to the nation, on 31 December 2012, in order to officially announce all these commitments, for the sake of peace and security in the Central African Republic.

The President of the Republic of Benin also held a telephone conversation with the spokesperson for "Seleka", Eric Massi, in the presence of President Bozizé, on the commitments made by the latter, in order to ensure a rapid return to normalcy in the country. A delegation of the "Seleka" coalition might visit Cotonou within the next few days for talks with the President of the Republic of Benin, the current Chairman of the African Union, in preparation for negotiations that are expected to start soon in Libreville.

The Government of the Republic of Benin should be highly grateful if you would bring the information contained herein to the attention of the Security Council, at your earliest convenience, so that the august Council could consider the measures it might take to support efforts undertaken at the level of both the African continent and the Central African subregion to restore peace to the Central African Republic, the situation of which the Council has been considering for several years.

(*Signed*) Jean-Francis R. **Zinsou**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative